

INSIDE VIRGINIA

Late Spring 2007



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

VDBA has partnered with America's 400th Anniversary Celebration at Jamestown to present "The Foundation of American Business" as the theme for Business Appreciation Week 2007, May 13th-19th. As Governor Kaine has so often noted in his remarks about the anniversary, Virginia was founded as a business venture.

Four hundred years and countless innovations

later, Virginia now ranks as the number one state for business, according to Forbes.com. VDBA is proud to salute the tradition of entrepreneurship that has flourished in this great Commonwealth.

Business Appreciation Week 2007 will be about recognizing the "can-do" business spirit that sparked on the shore of the James River in 1607 and has spread throughout every city and county in Virginia to this day. Business enterprise has been the driving force behind the building of strong communities and the development of individual potential in the Old Dominion.

That is not to say that there have not been dark moments in our history, but even in the worst of times, Virginians who were denied equal rights managed to carve out an economic niche that was remarkable under the circumstances. The words that adorn the Reynolds Business History Exhibit at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond are particularly apt today: "A more inclusive society has also meant a more inclusive economy."

During Business Appreciation Week 2007, we at VDBA and our local partners thank the individuals and business entities that follow in the footsteps of brave pioneers by providing jobs, investments, and good works in their Virginia communities.

My staff and I hope to attend as many local and regional BAW events as possible this year. We want to personally thank as many Virginia businesses as we can, as well as thanking the local officials who work so closely with them.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or ideas for Business Appreciation Week, feel free to contact me at feedback@vdba.virginia.gov.

Thanks for doing business in Virginia,

Louisa

VDBA TO HOST BUSINESS CONFERENCE & PROCUREMENT FAIR IN VIRGINIA BEACH

VDBA is hosting "Business at the Beach," a conference and procurement fair on Friday, June 22, 2007 on the Virginia Beach Convention Center. The event will include the most recent information about the Commonwealth's purchasing practices and offer workshops to assist small businesses with certification, eVA registration and selling to the state. Concurrent workshops will also cover starting a business, financing and employee recruitment.

For more information or to register, visit www.vdba.virginia.gov/events/event.asp?EVENT_ID=3099

POLLINA RANKS VIRGINIA NO. 1 PRO-BUSINESS STATE

Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced recently that Virginia has been designated as America's most business-friendly state in the annual independent study, Top Ten Pro-Business States: America's Economy in the 21st Century. The evaluation of state and federal economic development policies was produced by a top U.S. corporate relocation firm, Pollina Corporate Real Estate, Inc.

"This recognition from Pollina, based on an examination of 28 objective measurements, validates the results of our hard work to create a business-

environment," said Governor Kaine. "In Virginia, we work to support our existing businesses while also working creatively to recruit new investment and jobs. Our incentives are rational and performance-based, and we emphasize our diverse workforce, top-notch educational resources, and Virginia's high-quality, low-tax business climate as we compete for new jobs and investment."

The Pollina study evaluated states based on factors including taxes, human resources, labor climate, energy costs, infrastructure spending, workers compensation legislation and jobs lost or gained. The evaluation also considered 14 state government-controlled factors based on incentive programs and state

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INSIDE VIRGINIA
is an informational
e-publication intended
to provide Virginia
businesses with a
competitive advantage.
Brought to you by the



THIS ISSUE:

Director's Corner

Upcoming VDBA Event

Pollina Ranks VA #1

Letter from Governor Kaine

Phi Kappa Phi Inductee

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
economic development departments. Other states rounding out the top five include South Carolina, Florida, North Carolina and Utah. Virginia also held the top spot in the Pollina study in 2003, and ranked second in 2004, 2005, and 2006. Chicago-based Pollina

Corporate Real Estate is a full-service brokerage and consulting firm representing corporations in real estate matters on a national and international basis. A summary of the Pollina Report may be found at the Pollina Web site, and the full report may be ordered by phone at (847) 685-9000.

VDBA'S OWN INDUCTED INTO PHI KAPPA PHI

VDBA Virginia Jobs Investment Program Manager HENRY COBB will be inducted to Virginia Commonwealth University's Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi – the nation's oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society. Henry is receiving his Master's in Education,

specializing in Adult Education and Human Resource Development, in May. His selection means he represents the best and brightest at VCU and joins other notable Phi Kappa Phi members such as Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, President Jimmy Carter, former Vice President Al Gore, musician Ellis Marsalis, and authors David Baldacci, a VCU graduate, and John Grisham.

A LETTER FROM GOVERNOR TIMOTHY M. KAINE:



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

Dear Friend:

As we commemorate four centuries of commerce in the Commonwealth, it is important to recognize Virginia as the cornerstone for modern American culture and tradition. It is with that in mind that I designate May 13-19, 2007 as Business Appreciation Week in the Commonwealth.

This year's Business Appreciation Week theme, "Virginia – The Foundation of American Business," acknowledges the building blocks of what is now a spirited, diverse and thriving economy. Today, Virginia business owners exemplify the American dream and stand as a symbol of stability. It is because of your commitment and investments that *Forbes.com* recognized Virginia as the "Best State for Business" in August 2006, and Pollina Corporate Real Estate, Inc. recognized Virginia as the "Most Business Friendly State" in March, 2007. In return for your dedication, I pledge to work to help your business succeed.

Thank you for your unique role in our history and for moving Virginia forward. You make the Commonwealth a great place to live and work. May your ventures yield many happy returns during Business Appreciation Week and in the future.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Kaine

Patrick Henry Building • 1111 East Broad Street • Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-2211 • TTY (800) 828-1120
www.governor.virginia.gov

INSIDE VIRGINIA

Inside Virginia is published by the Virginia Department of Business Assistance (VDBA) to keep our readers up-to-date on current events in the economic development, small business and entrepreneurial business communities.

AGENCY DIRECTOR:

Louisa M. Strayhorn

EDITORS: Nina Sims

WRITER: Carolyn Conlon

Paul Walker

DESIGNER: Leslie Bax

Inside Virginia is published quarterly by the Virginia Department of Business Assistance. Copyright © 2007. Contents of the publication may not be reproduced without written permission. Letters, ideas, articles, award announcements or other items for inclusion in the publication may be submitted in writing to carolyn.conlon@vdba.virginia.gov.

Contact VDBA at 804.371.8200

www.vdba.virginia.gov

P.O. Box 446

Richmond, VA 23218-0446